

Amendment

10/553,087

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-16 Canceled

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17. (New) A method for operating an electromechanically operable parking brake for motor vehicles having an operating element (7), an electronic control unit (6) which receives wheel speed values from wheel speed sensors (12, 13), at least one unit (1) for generating a brake application force, and electromechanically lockable brake devices (4) on at least one axle, with said brake devices (4) being adapted to be applied by the unit (1), the method comprising:
- detecting activation a parking brake by an operator;
  - determining if the vehicle is moving by the wheel speed values;
  - operating the parking brake in a first operating mode when the wheel speed values indicate that the vehicle is moving, wherein the first operating mode is a dynamic mode;
  - operating the parking brake in a second operation mode when the wheel speed values indicate that the vehicle is not moving, wherein the second operating mode is static mode for parking the vehicle; and
  - operating the parking brake in the first operating mode when there are no wheel speed values detected.
18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the parking brake is driven in the first operating mode if it has been detected in the previous operating interval that the wheel speed values are missing.
19. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the parking brake is driven in the first operating mode if the operator does not assign the second

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operating mode to the parking brake.

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20. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the parking brake is driven in the second operating mode when the operator switches off the ignition and actuates the operating element (7) for a time longer than a predetermined time.
21. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the parking brake is driven in the second operating mode when the operator switches off the ignition and removes the ignition key from the ignition lock (27) at least for a predetermined time.
22. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the brake application force of the parking brake in the first operating mode is developed and maintained exclusively during the actuation of the operating element (7), and a maximum admissible force is applied to the parking brake in the second operating mode upon actuation of the operating element (7), and release thereof is possible only by means of a new actuation of the operating element (7), with an ignition switched on.
23. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein a warning lamp (17) is provided to indicate to the operator whether the parking brake is driven in the first or the second operating mode.